

Battle to locate missing son

Mother refuses to be silent

By Diane Monk

An Evanston woman who believes she saw a picture of her missing son last week in Mexico City now says she'll petition the government for a full investigation of the whereabouts of all men reported missing in action in Southeast Asia.

Mrs. Jean MacDonald said she received a call from a State Department official on Monday, after reports of her trip to Mexico City appeared in local newspapers.

"The nature of the call was intimidation," Mrs. MacDonald charged. "I was asked not to talk any more about my experience."

But the widowed mother of nine, is not intimidated. She doesn't believe the government is doing enough to locate her son, George, whose plane was shot down over Laos on Dec. 21, 1972, or other men reported missing in action in Southeast Asia.

MRS. MacDonald flew to Mexico City last Thursday with the Rev. Paul Lindstrom, executive director of the Christian Defense League, and another league official.

While there, she said, the three met with two unidentified "Orientals" who showed Mrs. MacDonald a picture of several men, one of whom she believes is her son, George, now 25.

The two Asians refused to give Mrs. MacDonald the picture, but offered to sell her a letter from her son and his fingerprints for a price she will quote only as a "large sum of money."

But the plucky mother said she refused that offer, telling the Asian, "If you know where these men are, let the exchange of money be for the person, not for some fingerprints or a letter."

Now Mrs. MacDonald doesn't know when or if she or Mr. Lindstrom will hear from the mysterious contacts again, but she hasn't given up hope of seeing her son alive.

HOWEVER, she said MacDonald, a former member of the Ohio State varsity track team, "looked simply terrible in the photograph, like one of those pictures you see of undernourished people. His arms were thin, with bones protruding..."

Mrs. MacDonald was angered by the plea for silence from the State Department official, and remains convinced that the government hasn't done enough for MIAs.

She said the official told her that Sec. of State Henry A.

Kissinger had been in touch with Pathet Lao during the last week and that she should have informed the CIA or some other government agency, not the news media, about her Mexico trip.

Now Mrs. MacDonald says she wants to have a sworn statement prepared describing

her Mexico experience and that she will send copies to President Ford, Atty. Gen. William Saxbe and every senator and congressman. Along with the statement will go a petition urging a full investigation of State Department dealings with Communist-controlled countries.

Pastor renews reports
of 38 living Viet POWs

By Andy Knott

AT LEAST 38 American servicemen who have been missing since the end of the Viet Nam war and declared dead by the Defense Department may still be alive, a Prospect Heights minister said Sunday.

The Rev. Paul Lindstrom, who has led the effort to account for 2,556 servicemen who never returned from Viet Nam, left for Paris Sunday night to try to meet with two former Vietnamese officials who have requested political asylum in exchange for information about the 38 servicemen.

Lindstrom said he has "strong evidence" the two men are the same diplomats who showed him evidence in 1976 that nearly 400 American servicemen captured in Laos were being held in Viet Nam.

LINDSTROM SAID he met the two Vietnamese in Mexico City in the fall of 1976 while they were trying to gain polit-

ical asylum in the United States. They then refused to divulge any information for fear of reprisal from the new Vietnamese government.

"I do not know if I will be allowed to see them or if they have any solid evidence," Lindstrom said before departing. "But they have told French officials they have proof of about 38 men still being held in two locations within Viet Nam."

One of the 38 believed to be alive is Air Force Capt. George MacDonald of Evanston, Lindstrom said. He was ruled to be "presumed killed in action" on Feb. 12 and was one of the last POW-MIA cases to be cleared by the government.

LINDSTROM CHARGED the government was declaring all POW-MIAs as dead in order to "clear the slate with Viet Nam" in order to establish diplomatic relations with the communist country.